## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this *Information Disclosure Statement* is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date, February 6, 2006.

**Customer Number** 

24024

FEB 0 8 2006 0

**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re applicati	ion of:	Williams et al.	)	Examiner:	James	M. Hewitt
Serial No.:		10/605,348	)	Art Unit:	3679	
Filed:		September 24, 2003	)	Attorney Doo	ket No.:	22188/06726
For:		WITH RELIEF	)	Confirmation	No.:	2347

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

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## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS**

	In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.
$\boxtimes$	In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) fo foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:  Reference NL 6710340 shows what appears to be a single tube gripping device 26 (Figs. 6 and 7) having a surface 11' that engages one end of the device to radially compress the device. Both ends of the device appear to contact the wall 1.
	Complete English translations of foreign language documents are being submitted herewith, and therefore no concise explanation for such documents is required.
CERI	TIFICATION AND FEE PAYMENT INFORMATION
	The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier). Accordingly, Applicant submits the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The fee is being paid in the following manner:
	A check is attached in the amount of \$180.00 as required under 37 § 1.17(p).
	Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 03-0172, order number 22188/06726.
	Respectfully submitted,
Date:	By: June By: Leonard L. Lewis, Reg. No. 31,176
	Customer No. 24024

(216) 622-8683

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Sheet 1

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

or form 1449/PTO

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known			
Application Number	10/605,348		
Filing Date	September 24, 2003		
First Named Inventor	Williams et al.		
Art Unit	3679		
Examiner Name	James M. Hewitt		
Attorney Docket Number	22188/06726		

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	<u> </u>	Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (# known)</sup>	<u> </u>		Figures Appear
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> "Number <sup>4</sup> "Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		NL 6710340	01/29/68	Gressel AG		
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Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete. including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.